

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the present application. The Examiner has withdrawn Claims 21-28. Claim 1 has been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, alleging them to be indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended Claim 1 in an attempt to overcome the Examiner's §112 rejection. In light of the amendments to Claim 1, Applicants believe Claim 1 to overcome the Examiner's §112 rejection and respectfully request withdrawal of the same.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Baron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,462,382) or Gakhar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,555,788). The Examiner alleges that both references anticipate Applicants' invention.

Claim 1 defines a saw blade for cutting fiber cement. The saw blade, among other elements, includes a kerf chip and dust minimizer formed in the rim. The minimizer includes at least one radially extending member adjacent a radially recess member. The minimizer is located proximate each gullet.

The Baron et al. reference cited by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. The Examiner indicates that Baron's reference number 16 is a kerf chip and dust minimizer. However, the numeral 16 relates to an insert which is

positioned in the gullet of the saw. This insert is neither located on the rim nor does it include a radially extending member adjacent a radially recess member. Further, the insert is in the gullet. Accordingly, the Baron et al. reference fails to anticipate, disclose or suggest Applicants' invention.

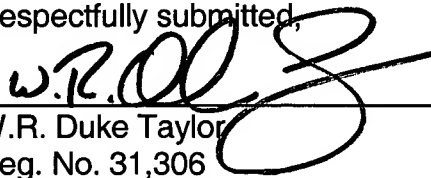
The Gakhar et al. reference cited by the Examiner fails to anticipate Applicants' invention. Gakhar et al. fails to illustrate a minimizer including at least one radially extending member adjacent a radially recessed member. The Gakhar et al. reference illustrates a blade which includes anti-kickback portions. Gakhar et al. neither discloses nor suggests any type of kerf chip and dust minimizer as claimed by Applicants. Further Gakhar et al. neither discloses nor suggest the minimizer including at least one radially extending member adjacent a radially recessed member.

Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 1 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as well as Claims 2-20 which depend from Claim 1, to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at her earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, she should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,



W.R. Duke Taylor
Reg. No. 31,306
Attorney for Applicants

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
(248) 641-1600

Date: May 9, 2006
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Attorney Docket No. 0275Y-000312/USB